



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 35

MAY & JUNE, 1984

NUMBER 3



MARGUERITE DAVISON

(1898 - 1984)

"A worker that needeth not to be ashamed"

Marguerite Davison was born in Beebe, province of Quebec, Canada, September 21, 1898, the daughter of Wilbur Ellsworth and Edith May (House) Davison. She died April 4, 1984, in the Habersham Home, Demorest, GA, at 86 years of age, having lived a sacrificial life of Christian service and devotion.

Miss Davison never married and she was the sole survivor of her immediate family. Her nearest relatives, a sister-in-law and several nieces, live in New England. Although she was devoted to them, her family was, in a very real sense, the friends and associates of her long career in Christian work, who were drawn to her through her great good humor, executive ability, Christian personality, and wealth of experience.

Miss Davison was a graduate of the Boston

(Continued on page 2)

Mini-Camp Enjoyed

The 1984 South Alabama Spring Mini-Camp was held at Laguna Beach, Florida, on May 4-6, 1984.

Family Enrichment was the theme of this year's camp. A time of Christian growth and fellowship was enjoyed by all, in spite of the fact that the Coast Guard had posted red flags along the beach to warn of the dangerous undertow. For safety's sake, the beach was off-limits but the pools were full of smiling campers during all recreation times.

Thanks are due to all those who gave of their time and talents to help make this year's Spring Mini-Camp a success.

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION

The Fairfield Glade Community Church of Fairfield Glade, Tennessee held a Mortgage Burning Celebration on Sunday, April 8, 1984.

We celebrate with Fairfield Glade and their pastor, Wolfgang Koehler, on reaching this important milestone in their congregational life.

ANNUAL MEETING - We need to remind all of the churches in the Southeast Conference that have not gotten their registrations in for their delegates to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting to be held June 15-17, 1984 at Cullman, Alabama, to please do so as soon as possible.

MARGUERITE DAVISON (Continued)

Latin School and a 1920 graduate of Whee-lock Kindergarten School (now Wheelock College), Boston, Massachusetts. She had done special work in Christian education at Boston University and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Following graduation from Wheelock, Miss Davison taught a few years in the French-speaking community of Vermont. In 1931, inspired by one of the recruiters of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational-Christian Churches, she volunteered for service in that organization and was appointed a layworker of the Board of Home Missions in that year. Thus began her long career in Christian missionary work.

She was first sent to LaGrange, GA, to direct parish activities of the Congregational church in that city in the heart of the cotton mill district. There she began her life-long devotion to Christian social service work and the Social Gospel, carrying out her ideals in service among the depressed elements of the world.

After one year in LaGrange, she was put by the Home Mission Board in charge of Church school, young people's work, and women's work of the Congregational-Christian Churches of Alabama, Georgia, and West Florida. After a few years her field was enlarged to include Kentucky and Tennessee—the whole SE Conference. Working mostly with country churches throughout this area she became the friend and counselor of thousands of people, both young and old, in these areas, as well as their Christian work director. It was in these years also that she extended her interest and service to the depressed elements of the area such as sharecroppers, miners, and other persons in need of material as well as spiritual help.

Making her headquarters in Thorsby, Alabama the location of the Congregational sponsored Thorsby Academy, she traveled thousands of miles throughout the territory in her automobile, braving the elements and sharing the accommodations provided her in the communities she visited. One year she took leave of absence to serve as teacher and Dean of Women in Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama.

One of Miss Davison's major accomplishments was the organization of summer service camps

and summer service work projects. From the young people whom she led in these camps and projects came many of the ministers of today's Congregational Churches whom she inspired and encouraged to further their education for the ministry.

In 1951, after twenty years in the South, she was transferred to the Chicago area as Executive Secretary of the Christian Woman's Fellowship of Greater Chicago. In this capacity, until her retirement in 1962 because of ill health, she extended the scope of the women's work of the Congregational churches of that area. She was a staunch advocate of women's work as a special entity within the United Church of Christ. It was also in these years that she participated in the tour of Congregational women to their colleagues in Europe, particularly in Wales, England, and Holland.

After her retirement in 1962, she made her home in Demorest, where she became a great force for good in the Federated (Methodist-Congregational) Church of Demorest (UCC), and in the Demorest area. She attended most of the Southeast Conferences where she was warmly welcomed by her many friends and held many important offices in the Federated Church. Until her last months she maintained an extensive correspondence with the many friends and colleagues she had known throughout her long career.

The 1920 Yearbook of Wheelock has this phrase about Marguerite:

"Few things are impossible to diligence and skill."

To this might well be added her own life-long philosophy that "few things are impossible to diligence and skill and none impossible with God's help."

By Mary C. Lane, Dean
Piedmont College

CORRECTION

In the March-April issue of the Southeast News, under the "Report of Giving", First United of Belvidere, Tennessee should have been shown as contributing \$1,084.00 to "Directed Gifts" and \$986.01 to NICD. These items were incorrectly shown under Athens, Trinity.

CONFERENCE CORNER



EMMETT OWEN FLOYD

(Report of the Conference Minister for 1983.)

Last year continued to be a year of steady, if not spectacular growth for the Southeast Conference. We grew in

membership and in stewardship to both our churches and basic O.C.W.M. support. While we failed to meet our projected challenge goal for O.C.W.M. we were able to increase some 5.7% which is encouraging. We hope to do better this year.

Our program of activities continued to improve. The coming of Rev. Sandye Mullins as Conference intern last June was a great boost in our development. She has brought vision and organizational skills which have strengthened our structures. Associate Conference Minister Warren Blankenhorn continues his notable service and the programs such as Camping and Work trips continue to grow in numbers and effectiveness. We lost Annette Piper as Administrative Assistant but Kathy Martin has come in and done a fine job. We continue to call on Virginia McCamey (though officially retired) to help out on occasion. I am blessed to be able to work with such fine persons in the conference.

Most of all I am encouraged by the growing dedication and work of our individual churches and members. We have received several new ministers (including one woman pastor) this past year who add to our fellowship. Our commissions and committees are becoming more intentional and effective. The officers and Board of Directors are an unusually able and dedicated group who provide excellent leadership. Our new churches are growing in members and strength. Many good signs abound in the Southeast. Let us renew ourselves in spirit and fellowship to make this part of God's Kingdom a better servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A LETTER FROM THE UNITED CHURCH, 4841
FIVE FORKS DRIVE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70817

Greetings!

I arrived during mid-April to establish the first United Church of Christ in Baton Rouge with the support of the U.C.C. Division of Evangelism and Church Extension, South Central Conference and New Orleans Association. During this short period of time I've made contact with numerous people who previously were affiliated with the U.C.C. in other parts of the country - they are excited to know we've arrived! I'm asking for your help and the help of every pastor and person in your Conference to identify even more U.C.C. people in the Baton Rouge vicinity.

Would you consider publishing in your Conference newsletter my request for the names of any individuals or families with previous U.C.C. affiliation who have moved to Baton Rouge. Address, phone number and approximate date of arrival would be helpful, but not essential. UCC'ers are on the move and I'd like to reach any moving to Baton Rouge with your help!

I thank you very much for your cooperation - if you're in Baton Rouge, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincerely,
Jerry Schumm, Pastor

NEW JED PLANS: SPREAD THE WORD

If you have "ideas, visions, and hopes" about Christian Education: Shared Approaches, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries would like to hear from you as work on planning future curriculum gets underway. (The present cycle of materials will have run its course in 1988.)

A new curriculum project team established by JED's eleven partner denominations will hold its first meeting in July. The team will later be expanded to include representatives of local churches, Conferences, seminaries, and those with special skills in art, music, and multi-media.

"The future of JED curriculum development is open at this time and needs to be informed by your input," says Percel O. Alston, general secretary of the UCBHM's Division of Christian Education. "The

PEACE OFFERING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The note in the Southeast News (Jan-Feb, 1984, page 1) made the Peace Priority Committee of our Pleasant Hill Community Church very happy. It was great to know that Peace Sunday on Pentecost, June 10th, is to be widely celebrated. With the co-operation of our beloved pastor, Bob Peeples and others concerned, we plan to hold our third celebration of Pentecost as Peace Sunday.

The vote of the Fourteenth General Synod to have an all church Peace Offering thrilled us. We pray that the share received here and that for the Southeast Conference can be used for a creative spiritual harvest. We long to be better "children of God" as more effective peace makers.

May a tremendous increase of new joy in giving bless every Pentecost Peace Sunday celebration in our Conference in 1984!

Your fellow-servant in peace making,
James F. McKinley
Peace Priority Committee

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST?"

On June 25, the United Church of Christ celebrates its 27th anniversary. Throughout its history, the UCC has drawn both praise and criticism, from within the denomination and from without. The Rev. Gary A. Hackenberg, pastor of Christ UCC in Annville, PA, recently wrote an article that asks, "What's Wrong With the United Church of Christ?" Here are some excerpts from that article:

"I don't think that any major Christian denomination has been criticized more than the United Church of Christ. People have misunderstood us, have distorted our message, have ranted and raved against us. They've said, 'What's wrong with the United Church of Christ? Why do you do the things you do?'

"Jesus, why do you heal those dreaded lepers? ... Jesus, why do you heal on the Sabbath day? ... Jesus, why do you do the things you do? Even the religious were confounded by Jesus, and so today many of even the religious people are confounded by the United Church of Christ.

"...we do not have rigid categories. We do not see everything as black or white. We know there are grey areas. We know that many issues of today like...genetic engineering, euthanasia, test tube babies, the use of nuclear energy, an adequate defense, are not simple yes and no questions. Thoughtful and informed Christians studying God's word and being guided by the Holy Spirit struggle with these issues, hammering out decisions in fear and trembling. You see, we believe that we are truly free in Christ Jesus, that he wants us to be free people using all we have for him and his people."

MOTHER'S DAY 1870

(Reprinted from "Shalom—an ecumenical task force on Christian education for world peace")

Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears!
Say firmly

'We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies,

Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.'

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own.

It says, 'Disarm, Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.

Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession.'

Julia Ward Howe
Boston, 1870

CURT'S NUGGETS

God does not expect you to give your last dollar; God expects you to give Him your first dollar.

NEW JED PLANS (Continued from page 3)

JED Partnership and core curriculum development are very much a part of our future."

UCBHM staff serving on the new project team are Charles R. McCollough, Lois I. Peeler, Larry E. Kalp, and Robert E. Koenig.

Send suggestions to Lois Peeler or Charles McCollough, UCBHM, 132 W. 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

(Due to lack of space this letter was not printed in the last issue of the SE News.)

TO: MICHELLE ANN SABINE (AND THROUGH HER TO THE WOMEN OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

As I read your account of the Southern Regional Meeting in Monteagle, I remembered the meeting with you all that I attended in 1981. I rejoice that the meetings continue, and hope to join you again sometime soon. Keep up your important work of sharing and building both faith and sisterhood.

In peace,
(Dr.) Nanette M. Roberts, General Secretary
UCC Board for Homeland Ministries

Minister's Convocation

Nearly 40 ministers and their spouses gathered at Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA on May 14-16, for the 1984 Southeast Conference Minister's Convocation. The theme of this year's convocation was "Christians Doing Financial Planning."

The principal speaker was Rev. C. David Langerhans who is Associate for Stewardship Program for the UCC's Stewardship Council.

Other speakers were Mr. Fred R. Tonney, president of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Atlanta and Ms. June Clark, an Atlanta Attorney.

STOWE TO ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETING

The Rev. Dr. David M. Stowe, the soon to be retiring executive vice president of the United Church Board for World Ministries, will be the keynote speaker for the 18th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference to be held on June 15-17, 1984, at St. Bernards Abbey in Cullman, Alabama.

Dr. Stowe, a former missionary to China, heads a staff of nearly 300 professionals working in 40 nations. In partnership with 50 indigenous churches and ecumenical organizations, the UCBWM (founded in 1810 and the country's oldest foreign missionary agency) conducts programs which support theological seminaries, schools and colleges, hospitals and clinics, social service centers, agricultural projects and local congregations around the globe. It contributes to relief and development projects in nearly 100 countries.



We at the Southeast Conference are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear such a distinguished servant of our Lord.

The theme of our Eighteenth Annual Meeting is "One in the Spirit". We encourage you

to come and join in the Christian fellowship and hear Dr. Stowe tell his story.

YOUTH EVENT

We are still receiving registrations for the Youth Event to be held at St. Bernards Abbey in conjunction with the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. Youth are invited to attend the Annual Meeting as Youth Delegates or attend the Youth Event functions which are being coordinated by Dan Ramey, Youth Coordinator for Brookmeade Congregational UCC in Nashville, TN.

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

Mrs. Jean Young, wife of Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta, spoke to almost 80 Atlanta area UCC women on April 5, 1984, at Button Gwinnett UCC, in Lilburn, GA.

Ms. Young, a member of First Congregational UCC in Atlanta shared her inspiring story with the group and told of her pride in the United Church of Christ.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Crossville, TN, has a new pastor. He is Rev. David Loar and will take his place in the pulpit there in mid-July.

Rev. J. Richard Woodward has accepted the call to First Congregational UCC in Savannah, Georgia.

Leanne Tigert has started work as the first half-time director of the Massachusetts Witness for Peace organization. Our congratulations and best wishes to her in this important work.

The Men's Fellowship of First Congregational Christian Church (UCC) in Montgomery, AL, held its annual Black Heritage program on February 19, 1984. Dr. Leon Howard, interim president of Alabama State University was the speaker for the program, tracing the lives of 3 black women who are obscure in the history books, yet had a great impact on black heritage.

6

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P. O. BOX 29883
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30359

CALENDAR

UPDATE

May 4-6 - Spring Mini Camp, Laguna Beach
14-15- Ministers Convocation
19 - Christian Education Commission
Meeting, Atlanta
June 10 - Pentecost Sunday
15-16- ANNUAL MEETING, Cullman, AL
23-30 Appalachia Habit for Humanity
Christian Service Project
July 12-15- 2nd National Meeting of UCC
Women, Milwaukee, WI
29-Aug. 1- National Youth Event,
University of Illinois

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

If you have something happening in your church or association that you would like to share with the rest of the Southeast Conference, please send to:

Editor
Southeast News
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

We depend on you to help us make the SE News a communication that will help keep our churches united in spirit though separated by miles.

(Pictures are welcome!)

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Atlanta, Georgia
Permit No. 1546